GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1420
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2000
EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate long-term agricultural export policy to capitalise on the Country`s comparative advantage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of world class referral laboratories for testing agro products available in the country, location-wise;

(e) whether the government propose to set up more such laboratories in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)
(a) to (c) Policy of exports of agriculture products forms an integral part of the Export-Import Policy of the country.The policy regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India`s food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an ongoing process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary with a view to making agriculture exports increasingly viable.
(d) to (f) National Accreditation Board for Testing/and Calibration Laboratories(NABL) has been entrusted by the Govt. of India to assess the laboratories following ISO/IEC Guide 25 engaging independent assessors with technical backgroundAssessors are trained by NABL following international guidelines.NABL conducts annual surveillanceof these laboratories to ensure that they are maintaining the quality system standards and technical competence. The laboratories are set up by concerned Ministries and independent laboratories are set up in private sector also. Some of the laboratories which have been given accreditation by NABL which carry out food testing as part of their activity are:- i) Vimta Laboratory Ltd., Hyderabad, ii) Food Research Analysis Centre, New Delhi, iii) Bureau of Indian Standards, Ghaziabad, iv) Shriram Institutefor Industrial Research, Delhi, v) Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, Bangalore, SGS, Chennai, SGS Lab House Chennai.
CFTRI Mysore and several other SGS Laboratories in the country are preparing themselves for accreditation by NABLSome of the laboratories following ISO/IEC Guide 25 recognised by BIS in the Food Sector are:- i) Jai Research Foundation, Gujrat, ii) Choka Analytical Services Ltd., Madhya Pradesh, iii) International Testing Centre, Hyderabad, iv) Defence Food Laboratory, Mysore, v) National Dairy Research Institute(NDRI), Karnataka, vi) National Dairy Research Institute(NDRI), Haryana, vii) Central Foo Technological Research Institute, Karnataka.Spices Board under Ministry of Commerce and Industry have established Quality Evaluation and Upgradation Laboratory in Cochin which follows international standard of analysis of Spices and spices products for physical, chemical and microbial contaminants. Another quality upgradation Laboratory and Technical Consultancy Division, of international standard has been established in Sept.`97 at a cost of Rs. one crore by CEPC at Quilon, Kerala for testing cashew and other food products.